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Santé Nationale et bien-être social Canada

AUG 3 1988

Canadian Human Rights Commission
Commission canadienne des droits de la personne

Chief Commissioner
Président

The Honourable Jake Epp, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health and Welfare
Brooke Claxton Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

My dear Minister:

The Commission has recently been contacted by Mr. Chris Brown, with whom I think your office may already be familiar. Mr. Brown suffers from environmental hypersensitivity, and is concerned that the nature of that complaint has not been sufficiently recognized by government authorities and that this, is turn, has added to the social and professional hardships which he and other sufferers from this condition are subject to.

Some years ago, Mr. Brown lodged a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission; the Commission did not feel the complaint could properly be dealt with under the Canadian Human Rights Act. I am sure it was not the Commission's intention at that time to question the authenticity of Mr. Brown's condition. It is my understanding that environmental hypersensitivity is a true medical problem, and that we owe it to people who have the misfortune to suffer from this syndrome to be more public and more positive in acknowledging that fact.

As you know, Mr. Brown recently brought his concerns to the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare, where he received a sympathetic hearing (HC Issue No. 48, May 26, 1988). On that occasion, he expressed the hope that the Health Minister would state publicly that he is sympathetic to the plight of those who suffer from environmental hypersensitivity and considers their concerns legitimate.

My purpose in writing to you is simply to let your know that we consider this request a reasonable one and that anything your department can do to increase public awareness of the legitimate concerns of people like Mr. Brown would, in our view, be most useful.

CC	MIN.	DMO	E.A.	CCFR

ack
ORIGINAL TO: HPB

+ see also p.c. from S. Copps.

Yours sincerely,

Maxwell Yalden

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AUG 16 1988
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
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